

CLAIMS

1. A hand holdable tool comprising:

a tool housing having a portion graspable with a hand of a user for maneuvering the tool during use;

a clamp-on extension handle assembly adapted to be placed over at least a portion of the graspable portion of the tool, said clamp-on extension handle assembly including:

a main body portion having a first portion and a second portion moveable relative to the first portion; and

a manually movable locking element operably associated with at least one of said first and second portions for holding said first and second portions clamped over said graspable portion when said locking element is placed in a locked position, and for enabling said main body portion to be removed from said graspable portion when said locking element is moved into said unlocked position.

2. The tool of claim 1, wherein said locking element comprises a slidably moveable locking element.

3. The tool of claim 1, wherein said first and second portions of said main body portion are coupled together by a living hinge.

4. The tool of claim 1, wherein:

said first and second portions of said main body each include a flange;
and

wherein said flanges cooperate with said locking element to enable said locking element to hold said first and second portions clamped over said graspable portion when said locking element is moved into said locked position.

5. The tool of claim 1, wherein said locking element is slidably disposed on one of said flanges.

6. The tool of claim 1, wherein said flanges are formed adjacent a split between terminal edges of said first and second portions.

7. The tool of claim 5, wherein at least one of said flanges includes a stop portion formed at one end thereof to limit movement of said locking element.

8. The tool of claim 1, wherein said clamp-on extension handle includes:
a neck portion projecting from said main body portion; and
a handle member couple to said neck portion.

9. The tool of claim 1, wherein said main body portion includes a groove formed on one of said first and second portions; and

wherein said graspable portion includes a rib formed thereon for engaging with said groove to maintain said main body portion secured against rotational

movement relative to said graspable portion when said clamp-on handle assembly is clamped to said graspable portion.

10. A hand holdable tool comprising:

a tool housing having a portion graspable with a hand of a user for maneuvering the tool during use;

a clamp-on extension handle assembly adapted to be placed over at least a portion of the graspable portion of the tool, said clamp-on extension handle assembly including:

a main body portion having a first portion and a second portion moveable relative to the first portion; and

a locking element carried by one of the first and second portions and moveable slidably between a locked position, wherein edges of said first and second portions are drawn into abutting engagement around said graspable portion of said tool to clamp said main body portion to said graspable portion, and an unlocked position wherein said edges of said first and second portions are able to be separated sufficiently to remove said main body portion from said graspable portion.

11. The tool of claim 10, wherein said first and second portions each comprise a flange disposed adjacent said edge thereof; and

wherein said locking element engages said flanges when moved into said locked position to hold said edges in abutting relationship.

12. The tool of claim 11, wherein at least one of said flanges includes a stop portion formed thereon for stopping sliding movement of said locking element when said locking element is moved into said locked position.

13. The tool of claim 11, wherein one of said flanges includes a projection; and

wherein said locking element includes a ledge having a notch, said notch engaging said projection when said locking element is moved into said locked position to hold said locking element in said locked position.

14. The tool of claim 11, wherein one of said flanges includes a projection; and

wherein said locking element includes a ledge having a notch, said notch engaging said projection when said locking element is moved into said unlocked position to hold said locking element in said unlocked position.

15. The tool of claim 11, wherein one of said flanges includes a projection; and

wherein said locking element includes a portion having a pair of spaced apart notches, a first one of said notches engaging said projection when said locking element is moved into said locked position to thus hold said locking element in said locked position; and

wherein said projection engages a second one of said notches when said locking element is moved into said unlocked position to thus hold said locking element in said unlocked position.

16. The tool of claim 11, further comprising a holder adapted to be fixedly secured to a wall for supporting said cleaning tool thereon when said cleaning tool is not in use.

17. A hand holdable cleaning tool comprising:

a cleaning tool main housing;

an auxiliary clamp-on handle assembly adapted to be releasably coupled to said cleaning tool main housing, said auxiliary clamp-on handle assembly including:

a main body portion having first and second portions hingedly coupled to one another so as to be positionable over said cleaning tool main housing; and

a manually movable locking element coupled to one of said first and second portions for locking said first and second portions in clamping engagement over said cleaning tool main housing; and

a elongated handle member extending from said main body portion for forming an extension handle for said cleaning tool.

18. The cleaning tool of claim 17, wherein said main body portion is formed from plastic and includes a living hinge coupling said first and second portions.

19. The cleaning tool of claim 17, wherein each of said first and second portions includes a flange formed adjacent an edge thereof; and

wherein said locking element cooperates with said flanges to hold said main body portion of said auxiliary clamp-on handle assembly clamped to said cleaning tool main housing.

20. The cleaning tool of claim 17, wherein said main body portion includes a neck portion coupled to said elongated handle member.

21. A hand holdable tool comprising:

a tool main housing;

an auxiliary clamp-on handle assembly adapted to be releasably coupled to said tool main housing, said auxiliary clamp-on handle assembly including:

a main body portion having first and second portions hingedly coupled to one another so as to be positionable over said tool main housing;

a manually movable locking element coupled to one of said first and second portions for locking said first and second portions in clamping engagement over said tool main housing; and

a elongated handle member extending from said main body portion for forming an extension handle for said tool.

22. The cleaning tool of claim 21, wherein said main body portion is formed from plastic and includes a living hinge coupling said first and second portions.

23. The tool of claim 17, wherein each of said first and second portions includes a flange formed adjacent an edge thereof; and

wherein said locking element cooperates with said flanges to hold said main body portion of said auxiliary clamp-on handle assembly clamped to said tool main housing.

24. A method for forming a cleaning tool comprising:

securing first and second portions of a main body portion of an auxiliary handle around a cleaning tool housing of said cleaning tool; and

using a manually moveable locking element to clamp said first and second portions of said main body portion around said cleaning tool housing; and

using an elongated handle operably associated with said main body portion to effectively increase the reach of a user when using the cleaning tool.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising coupling said first and second portions of said main body portion via a living hinge structure.

26. The method of claim 24, further comprising forming each of said first and second portions with a flange, and using said locking element to engage said flanges to clamp said first and second portions around said cleaning tool housing.